## **Amendments To The Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, lines 3-13 with the following amended paragraph:

The term "wetting agent" refers to a biocompatible agent which facilitates or enhances the hydration or lubrication of a hemostatic sponge. Examples of suitable wetting agents include polyoxyalkylenes (such as BASF Pluronics<sup>TM</sup>, UCC Carbowaxes<sup>TM</sup>, PEGs<sup>TM</sup>), ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, e.g., polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, e.g., polyoxyethylene stearate, sorbitan esters (such as certain products called Span<sup>TM</sup> and Tween<sup>TM</sup>), phosphatides (such as lecithin), alkyl amines, glycerin, water soluble polymers such as polyethylene oxides, carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone, surfactants such as alky (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) sulfate salts, e.g. sodium lauryl sulfate, aryl (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>) sulfate salts, and alkaryl (C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>) sulfate salts, and the like.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 12, lines 1-9 with the following amended paragraphs:

Suitable biocompatible wetting agents are commercially available and include, for example, sodium lauryl sulfate, Pluronic<sup>TM</sup> F-68, Pluronic<sup>TM</sup> F-38, Pluronic<sup>TM</sup> P-105, Pluronic<sup>TM</sup>-10R5, Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20, Tween<sup>TM</sup> 60, Tween<sup>TM</sup> 85, Brij<sup>TM</sup> 35, Brij<sup>TM</sup> 78, Myrj<sup>TM</sup> 52, PEG<sup>TM</sup> 600, glycerin and the like.

In addition, biocompatible wetting agents can be incorporated into biocompatible collagen hemostatic sponges (e.g., Actifoam<sup>TM</sup>) to improve their wetting times in the manner and concentrations set forth above. Suitable wetting agents include Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20 (1% in isopropanol) and Pluronic<sup>TM</sup> P-105 (1% in isopropanol).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, lines 4-16, with the following amended paragraph:

The following candidate wetting agents were each incorporated into the gelatin prior to foaming:

- 1. Polyacrylamide (weight average molecular weight of about 1500) (as a sample of an a cationic wetting agent)
- 2. Sodium lauryl sulfate (as a sample of a anionic wetting agent)
- 3. Pluronic™ F-68 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) block), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- number average molecular weight of about 8400) (commercially available from BASF Corp.)
- 4. Tween<sup>™</sup> 20 (polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- molecular weight of approximately 1227)
- 5. PEG<sup>TM</sup> (600) (poly(ethylene glycol), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- molecular weight of about 600)
- 6. Glycerin (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, lines 1-6 with the following amended paragraph:

Gelatin compositions 1A produced with lauryl sulfate, Pluronic F-68, Tween 20 and 30% lauryl sulfate candidate wetting agents were softer and less compressible. These compositions also displayed some loss of foam height and an increase in cell size and voids. The Tween 20 and 30% lauryl sulfate formulations demonstrated the most collapse and increase in cell size and voids.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, lines 15-20, with the following amended paragraph:

The Gelatin Compositions 1A with the lauryl sulfate (30% loading), Tween™ 20 and Pluronic™ F-68 wetting agents yielded a startling reduction in hydration time and about 3-10 seconds (versus 6 minutes for the Comparative Gelatin Composition 1B (control)). The amount of water absorbed was somewhat reduced for the 30% lauryl sulfate containing sample. It was basically unchanged for the other two compositions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, lines 32-34 through page 18, lines 1-2, with the following amended paragraph:

The above data of the different agents used, little or no change in the wet/dry ratio occurred with the use of either Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20 or PEG<sup>TM</sup> 600; modest lowering of the wet/dry ratio occurred with the use of Pluronic<sup>TM</sup> F-68 and Glycerin; and somewhat greater lowering of the wet/dry ratio occurred with the use of lauryl sulfate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, lines 4-15, with the following amended paragraph:

- 1. Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate) (Aldrich Cat. #27434-8)
- 2. Tween<sup>TM</sup> 60 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monostearate) (Aldrich Cat. #37425-3)
- 3. Tween<sup>™</sup> 85 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan trioleate) (Aldrich Cat. #38890-4)
- 4. Brij M 35 (polyoxyethylene (23) lauryl ether) (Aldrich Cat. #85836-6) (Sigma)
- 5. Myrj<u>TM</u> 52 (polyoxyethylene (40) stearate) (Aldrich Cat. #P3440) (BASF)
- 6. Brij 78 (polyoxyethylene (23) steryl ether) (Sigma #23600-4)

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, lines 7-10, with the following amended paragraph:

All samples of cross-lined gelatin, treated or not, yielded very large and similar uptakes for water (wet/dry weight). Also, as evident above, the best wetting agents were deemed those that produced the most rapid hydration, e.g., Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20, Brij<sup>TM</sup> 35 and Brij<sup>TM</sup> 78.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, lines 4-22, with the following amended paragraph:

The specific wetting agents employed were as follows:

- Tween™ 20 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate) (Aldrich Cat. #27434 8)
- 2. Pluronic™ F-68 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-propylene oxide) block), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 8400) (commercially available from BASF Corp.)
- 3. Pluronic™ P-105 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) polymer), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 6500) (commercially available from BASF Corp.)
- 4. Pluronic™-10R5 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) polymer), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 4550) (commercially available from BASF Corp.).
- 5. Pluronic<sup>TM</sup>-F38 (poly(ethylene oxide)-co-(propylene oxide) block), (as a sample of a non-ionic wetting agent -- average molecular weight of about 5000) (commercially available from BASF Corp.).

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Please replace Table 4, page 25, beginning on line 15 with the following amended Table 4:

Table 4 Hydration Times for Cross-Linked Gelatin Compositions with Wetting Agent

Coatings of Varying Concentrations

Wetting Agent Used	Hydration Times at Wetting Agent Concentrations					
in Coating	0.10%	1.00%	3.00%	10.00%		
Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20	15, 10; 60,	15,10; 15,	20, 10 sec	20, 10 sec		
	25, 15 sec	10, 10; 10				
		sec				
Brij™ 35	10, 10, 10;	15, 10, 10;	10, 20, 15 sec	20, 30, 30 sec		
	35, 20, 20	30, 20 sec				
	sec					
Brij <u>™</u> 78	10, 15, 10	10, 10; 25	10, 10 sec			
	sec	sec				
P-105	15, 15 sec	10, 10; 10	10, 10 sec			
		sec				
10R5	15, 15 sec	10, 10 sec	10, 10 sec			

Please replace Table 5, page 27, with the following amended Table 5:

Wetting	Concentration	Foam Wet	Foam Dry	Hydration	Wt. Wet/Dry
Agent	·			Time	
Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20	5%	³∕₄ in.	3/8 in.	2-3 sec	NA
Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20	3%	½ in.	3/8 in.	2 – 3 sec	23.4
Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20	1%	¾ in.	1⁄4 in.	$2-3 \sec$	24.0

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Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20					
	0.10%	3/4 in.	5/8 in.	5 sec	41.5
Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20 ·					
	3%	no foam		NA	NA
Tween <sub>TM</sub> 20					
	3%	no foam		NA	NA
Муг <u>јтм</u> 52					
	3%	no foam		NA	NA
Brij™ 35	3%	1 ¼ in.	½ in.	2-3  sec	16.5
	•••			_	
Brij <u>™</u> 78	3%	½ in.	3/8 in.	2-3 sec	12.0
	•••			_	
F-68	3%	1 in.	½ in.	2-3  sec	19.7
	004				
Control	0%	1 ¾ in.	1 ¼ in.	8 min	45.8